

I Am He Jesus Presents Himself as Salvation Jn. 8:21-30

As a preacher of the Gospel of Christ, it is my charge to present Christ in the best of my God given ability. To set forth a clear picture of His death burial + resurrection. But I have

always been fascinated by those places in the Bible where Christ presents Himself. Where he says "I am He" or "it is I". I want to look at these places over the next few weeks, But we will start here today, Jesus Presenting Himself as salvation. Salvation is not a plan, prayer, precept, it is a person. It is Jesus Christ and him alone. No rite no ritual no religious form, just Christ. No gift of knowledge, no gain of wealth, no grasp of power can alter the path of man toward eternal hell save one Lord Jesus

I. He is the Central Divide of Separation - Some might think that Jesus came so that we could all hold hands in unity. No. Matt 10:34-35 Jesus is very much the dividing line in this world. Here Jesus presents himself as the central divide of Separation between ^{wrath + deliverance} life + death, God + man

B. The Divide between Eternal life and Eternal loss - vs 21. Time + Time again Jesus is attempting to reveal to them that he is Messiah. Standing right before them, long awaited, + longed for Messiah. And they refuse him. Jesus says I go my way (understood death in vs 22) death, then ye shall... + die in sins. Writers say destruction of Jerusalem, they died seeking Messiah who He already passed by. They were looking for another and missed Messiah. Note "did I say" vs "do not say" Jesus

C. The Divide Between Divinity and Depravity^{vs 23}
Jesus is drawing another line between Himself & all other humanity. He just comes right out and says it "I am not of this world." He was like us but not like us. He was and still is flesh and bone, visible to the eye like us, yet w/ a depraved nature which is earthly, sensual & devilish. C.S. Lewis says it best: "Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because He said so." With statements like vs 23 he is either "Liar, Lunatic or Lord"

D. The Divide Between Judgment & Justification^{vs 24}
This dividing line grows greater and greater with each word of the lips of the Saviour vs 24. Christ is the difference between Judgment & Justification. If you believe the he is who he claims to be then you will be cleared of your sins. ^{full}
³ Rom 3:24 In 6:47. Rom 5:9. Justified. Judgment paid in

But if you believe not! Die in Sins! O H how ⁴horrified to face the Judgment to come. One author writes, ⁵The Bible is clear that if you refuse to repent & believe ^{God awaits} the wrath of ^{angels} II. He is the Sovereign Designer of Salvation

This role of Saviour of the world is not some kind of career choice for Jesus. But no, out of all human history there was only one man - God-man sent w/ heavenly

B. The Saviour's Words were from the Father - Have you ever been around a person who is just really good at making it up as he goes, going w/ the flow. If you watch children play they just kind of make up rules as they go to the game their playing (usually to their own advantage) But that is not what the Lord Jesus is doing. vs 25-26

1) Matthew 10:34-35 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

2) Jesus is drawing a line between Himself and any other would-be Messiah's

3) **Romans 3:24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **John 6:47** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. **Romans 5:9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

4) One author writes "they that die in their sins, shall rise in their sins and stand before Christ in their sins; such as lie down in sin in the grave, shall have sin lie down with them in hell to all eternity.

5) **John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. **Mark 16:16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **John 3:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1) But all of it, the claims of deity, the prophecies, the moral truth, all of it came from the Father. His plan. His will. Christ is the one and only plan for saving mankind.

2) It was "the plainest intimation He had yet given in public of the manner and the authors of his death."

3) Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

4) Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief...

Latter part of vs 28. Jesus is not making it up as he goes along. But he is in direct communication w/ God. vs 25 is sort of a slam! "Who do you think you are?" Jesus is telling them exactly what the father says. He is. I really don't understand how ~~any~~ can deny the deity of Christ and still revere Christ. If he is not divine then here he is putting words in God's mouth that he never said.

C. The Sacrificial Work was from the Father ^{vs 29}
One author wrote concerning this statement. This lifting up had only one meaning crucifixion! He implicated them "when ye". Reminds me of Peter's sermon Acts 2:23. Jesus said then you will know... Oh how true that must have been. As they watched the cross being raised and Ps 22 + chs 53 were visibly portrayed before their eyes. How the signs from heaven (3 hrs of darkness, graves open, rocks were it) They knew it right then that they had crucified their Messiah. But note that Jesus goes on to say that this was not the work of Christ but the working of the Father. This was the plan of God! Note Acts 2:23 Is 53:10. Jesus was not an unfortunate casualty in the midst of social revolution, he was only begotten of father sacrificed in place ^{of sinful man} Jn 3:16

III. He is the Sole Deliverance from Slavery
In verse 30 we see the scales coming off many of the blinded hearts in the temple that day. Finally the light went on. Do you remember when it all finally made sense?

B. We Must be Disciples of His Teaching ^{vs 31} For deliverance from slavery to sin ~~to~~ take place one must be a genuine disciple of Christ. Jesus gives the deliverer test of genuine salvation in vs 31.

We must live out our profession. Adrian Rogers said that the word believe is the result of putting the two words together by and live. So to believe is to live by or live by. Our belief in Christ should affect every area of our life. Our life decisions & directions ^{are} no longer up to us, but dictated by God's word. Clark: It is only when we receive the truth ^{have it} ^{written} keep it and walk in it, that we are the genuine disciples of Christ. The road of Christ is the only road for a disciple to walk that leads to eternal life + freedom from wrath ^{upon sin}. C. We can be Delivered by His Truth - vs 32, is a continuation of vs 31. By being his disciples and therefore continuing in his word, we can know his truth and be made free. Today there is a movement in churches that we can not be dogmatic and say I know this or that about the Bible. The Hermeneutic of Humility: Well I can't say for sure that the Bible means this when it says that... Jesus plainly says when you follow me, abide in me and my word abide in you, you can have experiential knowledge of the truth of Christ. And this truth breaks chains of Bondage and slavery. Some of us here walk at a dangerous distance from Christ. Dangerous because what's too say that you are even a child of God at that distance.

IV. Closing Jesus has presented himself through the scripture his very words that he by God the Father's design is the only way to escape the wrath to come. Flee to Christ. Acts 4:12 neither is there...

At conversion, the light shines into the temple; in continuing consecration the light shines into every part of the temple. Faith brings light to one's soul; continuing faith supplies exercise for the tongue to speak, the heart to love, the hands to serve, the feet to walk in the ways pleasing to Christ.

...or not. But in doing so you live in bondage. And all the while the key to freedom lays in the path before you. Ivor Powell - Let it be well considered that the only key to unlock the chains of slavery is the Truth. The Lord said "I am the way, the truth, and the life...